

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The undersigned greatly appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiners James Blackwell and William Bashore during the personal interview with Applicant's representative, Dan Schubert, on March 31, 2005 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. During the interview, Mr. Schubert provided a brief overview of the invention and outlined the basic process for abstracting a lease. Specifically, Mr. Schubert discussed the human element necessary in creating section summaries for the various contract sections.

Claims 9-16 and 19-26 in the case are pending. Claims 9, 15, 19, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. in view of Kupiec. Claims 10-14 and 20-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Kupiec and in further view of Shirley et al. Claims 16 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Kupiec and in further view of Jacobs.

Base claims 9 and 19 of the application are amended herein to further define the claimed *section summary* of the present system and process. Specifically, the amended claims state that the section summary comprises "*a reconstruction of the contract information in layman's terms chosen by an abstractor.*" Support for this amendment is clearly provided in the specification. See e.g., ¶0106 at p. 32 ("In the *Notes* field, the abstractor provides a brief summary of the lease clause in layman's terms."). As defined by *Webster's Dictionary*, a "layman" is a person who is not an expert in some field. In the context of the present invention, "layman's terms" refers to any language used to describe contract information to someone in simple terms—i.e., a reconstruction of the contract information in a manner which omits certain legalese. Should the *section summary* raise

questions or issues regarding the associated contract section, the user can quickly and conveniently "drill down" into the contact to view the exact and *unaltered* contact language.

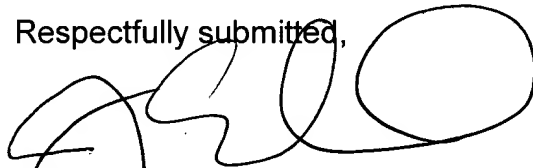
This *section summary* feature clearly distinguishes the claimed system and process from the art cited, namely, Miller and Kupiec. As conceded in the Office Action, the primary reference (Miller) fails to teach a *section summary* prepared for an indexed contract section and recorded in a field electronically linked to at least one of the indexing tags. See Office Action, p. 3. The examiner, however, cites Kupiec as teaching the generation of a document summary page with indicators that help the user find the corresponding place in the summarized document from which the summary information was extracted. While this "summarizer" of Kupiec does create a summary with indicators, the summary is nothing more than a *machine-generated extraction of text from the original document*. Unlike the claimed invention, there is *no human involvement* in the summarizing process of Kupiec. Indeed, Kupiec expressly *teaches away* from this by stating that "automatically generated document summaries serve a valuable function by reducing the time required to review documents." See Kupiec, col. 1 at lns. 14-16. In the present system and method, the summaries are not generated automatically *but are instead prepared by the abstractor*, as claimed.

The concept of the present invention goes far beyond the simple *extraction of text* with the ability to link back into the original document. Instead, the invention manages information in a manner which is most efficient and convenient to the ultimate user. By employing the claimed *section summary*, the user can readily determine various features of a contract section which are important to him or her, and which are described in clear and easy to understand language drafted by the human abstractor. While the present abstracting system and process may require additional time and labor (as noted by

Kupiec), this human element is necessary in achieving the principle objectives of the invention.

For all these reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully requested at an early date. If the Examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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